

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-12. (Cancelled)

Claim 13. (Currently amended) A method of identifying counterfeit articles, comprising the steps of:

acquiring a framing image disposed on an article to establish a frame of reference;

reading a first pattern disposed on the article based on the framing image, wherein the first pattern comprises randomly distributed particles;

reading a first pattern and a second pattern disposed on the article;

converting said first pattern and said second pattern into a corresponding first data set and second data set; and

comparing said first and second data sets to each other.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

Claim 15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein said converting step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

Claim 16. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said ~~first and~~ second pattern[[s]] is a bar code.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is invisible.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

Claims 19-30. (Cancelled)

Claim 31. (Currently amended) A system for identifying counterfeit articles, comprising:

means for acquiring a framing image disposed on an article to establish a frame of reference;

means for reading a first pattern disposed on the article based on the framing image, wherein the first pattern comprises randomly distributed particles;

means for reading ~~a first pattern and a second pattern~~ disposed on the article;

means for converting said first pattern and said second pattern into a corresponding first data set and second data set; and

means for comparing said first and second data sets to each other.

Claim 32. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein said first and second data sets are numeric sequences.

Claim 33. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein said converting step is performed with an encryption algorithm.

Claim 34. (Currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein ~~at least one of~~ said ~~first and~~ second pattern[[s]] is a bar code.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns is invisible.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 31, wherein at least one of said first and second patterns exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

Claim 37. (Currently amended) A counterfeit resistant article, comprising[[:]];
a framing image;
a first randomly-generated marking pattern of particles readable based on the
framing image to generate a first data set; and
a second marking readable to generate a second data set, wherein said first data set and said second data set are related according to a predefined relationship.

Claim 38. (Currently amended) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said first ~~marking~~ randomly-generated pattern of particles is invisible.

Claim 39. (Currently amended) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said first ~~marking~~ randomly-generated pattern of particles exists in the infra-red light spectrum.

Claim 40. (Previously Presented) The counterfeit resistant article of claim 37, wherein said predefined relationship is determined by an encryption algorithm and an encryption key.

Claim 41. (Cancelled).

Claim 42. (Cancelled)